

## **Nonprofit Organization Grants:**

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
Recreational Boating Safety

Federal Grant Title:	National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program
Federal Agency:	United States Coast Guard
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-USCG-2023-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: Coast Guard Auxiliary Association  
Grant Number: 70Z02323MO0001530  
Grant Title: Paddlesports Safety Initiative 2023  
Period of Performance: 1 year grant

Award Amount: \$105,000.00

### **Summary:**

This project provides resources to help Auxiliary members who are qualified in the AUXPAD program and those who are focused on other boating disciplines engage with paddlers in a meaningful and authentic manner. Most paddlers have little interaction with the Coast Guard, Auxiliary, and other regulatory or law enforcement personnel. A recent survey of the American Canoe Association's coastal kayak instructors revealed appreciation and respect for Coast Guard and Auxiliary personnel – but little awareness that Coast Guard and Auxiliary personnel have any knowledge, skill, or even interest in paddling. Further, while vessel safety exams are seen as having value for motorboat operators, paddlers see little value in them. Given this, it can be challenging for Auxiliary members to engage with members of the paddling community. We need a key to “open the door” to education and engagement.

Small safety-related items, such as whistles and paddle tip reflectors, can serve as this key. Whistles provide required sound signaling devices. Providing them ensures that paddlers have required, essential, lifesaving equipment. Paddle tip reflectors dramatically increase the visibility of paddlers to other boaters. Increased visibility reduces the risk of collision, a rare cause of fatal paddling accidents. More importantly, increased visibility reduces the risk of a near miss and an encounter with a wake that might capsize or swamp paddlecraft – a much more common cause of paddlecraft-related fatalities.

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